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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

EIU TO HONOR SIX FOR POST-GRAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University, along with the EIU Alumni Association, will honor six of its alumni for outstanding post-graduation accomplishments as part of Homecoming 2001 activities happening around campus in the coming week.

Three alumni -- **Brent Manning '75, '76; Pat Sullivan '75; and Frank Blum '76, '77** -- each will be honored with a Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in either academic or literary fields, business, public service and/or service to the university and who, through their accomplishments and service, have brought prestige to their alma mater.

Joe Strohm '86, '87 will receive an Alumni Service Award, given to those alumni who have repeatedly displayed outstanding voluntary service to Eastern, while **Cheryl Warner '96, '00** will be honored as the Outstanding Young Alumnus, an award presented to alumni who, within five years of graduation with a bachelor's degree, have excelled in their careers and/or public service.

In addition, **Robert Jachino '59**, who was unable to return to Eastern during Homecoming 2000, will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award he won last year.

Award winners will be recognized during Eastern's Homecoming parade, beginning at

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13; during halftime of the EIU Panthers/Southeast Missouri Indians football game (1:30 p.m.); and during the EIU Alumni Association Awards Dinner later in the day.

Brent Manning has served as director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources since 1991. In this capacity, he has ensured the proper stewardship of Illinois' wealth of natural resources while directing a staff of 2,774 and a budget of more than \$666 million. During Manning's tenure at the IDNR, Illinois has acquired more than 123,000 acres of land for public recreation and enjoyment. He led the effort to restore the Cache River Complex, the Joliet Army Arsenal (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie) and the Savanna Army Depot for public access; was instrumental in getting approval for the State Habitat Stamp which has generated more than \$8.5 million; and pushed for the creation of the Illinois Conservation Foundation, the fundraising arm for the IDNR which has surpassed \$10 million in donations since its founding in 1995.

Manning's approach to outdoor programs for youth, women and the disabled has been described as visionary. Previously he served as director of field operations for Ducks Unlimited.

Manning received bachelor of science degrees in biology and zoology in 1975 and, a year later, his master of science degree in zoology. He and his wife, Cathy, along with daughters Sarah and Jessica, reside in Pawnee.

Pat Sullivan, a pioneer in the sales automation industry, is attributed with creating the contact management software category. He is the original developer and marketer of ACT!® software and founded two companies, Contact Software International (1985) and SalesLogix/Interact Commerce Corporation (1995).

Sullivan was named Leader of the Year by the Arizona Software Association in 2000 and is a two-time recipient of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award (1993 and 1999). In 1998, he was recognized as one of the 80 Most Influential People in Sales and Marketing History and, in 1999, as one of the Ten Most Influential People in CRM (Customer Relationship Management).

Frank Blum, a professor of chemistry at the University of Missouri-Rolla, currently

serves as the senior investigator of the Materials Research Center, director of the Institute for Applied Chemistry and co-director of the Friction Materials Laboratory. He has published more than 145 scientific papers and acquired nearly \$3 million in grant funding.

Blum has received widespread acclamation for his work in the areas of polymer solutions, liquid crystals, microemulsions and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy work. In 1999, he became chairman of the Polymer Division of the American Chemical Society.

In addition to his recognition as a scientist, Blum is a distinguished teacher, having received Faculty Excellence Awards at the University of Missouri-Rolla nearly every year until 1994 (at which time he was named Curator's Professor of Chemistry and was no longer eligible).

Blum received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Eastern. He and his wife, Linda (*nee Drain*, EIU '77), reside in Rolla and are the parents of two children -- Frank D. Blum Jr. and Rebecca K. Blum. He is the son-in-law of Don and Shirley Drain of Effingham.

Joe Strohm, currently director of group sales for the St. Louis Cardinals, has remained an active supporter of the Panther Club since his graduation from Eastern and has been instrumental in supporting alumni programming in the St. Louis area for the last few years. He makes possible the EIU Alumni Association's highly popular annual Eastern Alumni St. Louis Cardinals game outing. In addition, Strohm regularly returns to campus to speak to students at the request of faculty members.

Strohm received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education from EIU. He and wife Vicki, along with their two sons, Ryan, 7, and Daniel, 4, reside in St. Louis.

Cheryl Warner has been an exemplary instructor at Mattoon High School for the past five years in the Learning Disabilities Department. She has instructed and co-instructed courses in English, biology, algebra and study skills, and has served as the ninth-grade interdisciplinary team leader and student assistance program team leader.

She is active as a sponsor of several school-related activities and organizations, and received the "Going the Extra Mile" Recognition Award from the Mattoon Chamber of

Commerce.

Warner assisted Eastern faculty in obtaining a \$750,000 grant to fund an after-school program in Mattoon and, for the past few years and at the request of EIU faculty, has provided seminars on instructional and behavioral strategies to implement with at-risk high school students. She recently accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations at Eastern. Her research interests include co-teaching, interdisciplinary teaching and implementing reading strategies at the secondary level.

Warner received bachelor's degrees in both special education and elementary education and a master's degree in elementary education/language arts. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Charleston and are the parents of a daughter, Ariel. Her parents, Robert and Susan Hornung, and a brother, Robert, live in Manteno.

Robert Jachino, a life member of the EIU Alumni Association, has enjoyed an outstanding career in the publishing information industry. As chief executive officer of the Information and Publishing Group of The Thomson Corporation, he was responsible for 22,000 employees in 107 units worldwide with annual revenues in excess of \$2 billion. In addition to numerous newspapers and magazines, the firm published various electronic databases in law, tax, financial services and medicine. He also served as CEO of the following publishing firms during his distinguished career: Pitman; Auerbach; Bowmar; and Warren, Gorham & Lamont. Upon leaving the publishing sector and prior to retiring from Thomson, Jachino served as CEO of Markborough Development.

A native of Nokomis, Jachino majored in history while a student at Eastern. He currently resides in Greenwich, Conn., with his wife, Elaine. They are the parents of two sons – Peter of Stamford and Christopher (wife, Laura) of Darien.